

either seen or heard. This region is densely wooded and uninhabited except by an occasional lumber camp. So far as noticed the birds were always in pairs.—ULYSSES O. COX, *Mankato, Minn.*

The Song of the Alder Flycatcher.—I have studied the notes of the Alder Flycatcher for two years, very closely, in Maine where it nested near the house, and I heard its song and various other utterances nearly all day. The ordinary song, as I know it, consists of two notes much like the Chebec's. It is in the hoarse tone of the Phoebe, and is jerked out with a backward jerk of the head, after the manner of the Least Flycatcher, and to my ear, it sounds like *red-dy*, sometimes — but not by any means generally. He gives in addition to this, another two-note utterance, much lower, and of a clear musical quality, very different from the hoarse common song, without tossing the head, or jerking.

Besides these he has several other utterances, a loud clear *queoe*, several times repeated, as if to command attention, and a low plaintive *qu?—qu-eh*. In addition to these he gives many different notes in an undertone, which can neither be described nor imitated by the human voice. In fact, the bird is extremely versatile. My studies have always been made where I could see as well as hear the bird, so that there is no possibility of mistake. I have never been able to make Dr. Dwight's, Mrs. Wright's or Mr. Chapman's characterization of the song fit my bird, but I learned long ago that no two persons hear a bird note alike, or, rather, that no two birds have exactly the same utterances.—OLIVE THORN MILLER, *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

The Occurrence of the Prairie Horned Lark at Southern Pines, N. C.—The past winter at Southern Pines, N. C., was called one of unusual severity. After passing through weeks of weather hardly to be equalled in the north by stormy March or April, it was hardly a surprise to awake one morning in February and find the sand covered with nearly a foot of snow. The snow melted rather slowly and as I picked my way along the street on Feb. 19 I was surprised to hear the familiar call of the Horned Lark. I followed the flock, which consisted of eight birds, for some time, satisfying myself as to their identity, though the call was sufficient. The next day they were about the streets, which were bare only in places, the snow mixed with sand by the passing teams melting faster than where undisturbed. They were less shy the second day and I got quite near to them. They were very dull colored and probably more or less stained with the soot which is everywhere about in that country. Their small size and dull colors leave little doubt they were the common form (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*). They were not seen after the 20th. I judge records of the Horned Lark this far south are not frequent.—C. H. MORRELL, *Pittsfield, Me.*

The Boat-tailed Grackle as a Stow-away.—On the afternoon of June 7, 1898, the ocean steamship 'Tallahassee' left her dock in Savannah,

Ga., en route for New York. The hour of leaving was somewhat later than the scheduled time, and darkness had settled down before Tybee Island had been passed, and when the waning moon had risen the craft was well out on the open sea. The following morning daylight found her out of sight of land, enjoying, as from the beginning, a calm voyage, which condition continued until her destination was reached. It was then discovered that a female Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*) was on board, where in all probability it had come during the period of darkness on the Savannah River.

The next day, June 9, it was still on board, and it was then evident that it was an unwilling passenger. From the first it had been rather wild, and remained in the rigging at the mast heads. It was observed to make several flights out from the ship, rising higher in the air, and circling quite around, always returning to its elevated perch. As hunger pressed it, it became less timid and came down on the cabin roof in search of food. When darkness came the bird was still on board. The last day of the voyage, June 10, the sun was well up when I went on deck, and the Jersey Heights were astern. My first thought was for our avian fellow-passenger, but a careful search showed that it was gone, probably having left with great gladness at the first positive view of land. This instance seems of more than a passing interest, showing an actual case of straggling by the agency of a ship.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Me.*

The Grasshopper Sparrow in Maine, and Other Notes.—When returning from a short trip with Mr. J. M. Swain, on June 8, 1901, we heard a thin sparrow-like song which we could not identify. The bird was in a large field not far from my home, and as the singer proved shy, I got my gun and soon secured it. It proved to be a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Coturniculus savannarum passerinus*), the first to be taken in the State since Boardman's original specimen, captured many years ago.

A Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) was seen May 1, 1901. Though not uncommon in other localities it is rare here.

A Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) was seen here May 22, 1900. It is the only one seen in many years.

The Meadowlark comes regularly, though in small numbers. The present year, 1902, they have sung constantly in the field back of my home.—C. H. MORRELL, *Pittsfield, Me.*

Another Scarlet Tanager for Colorado.—On May 17, 1902, a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*) was shot at Palmer Lake, El Paso Co., Colorado, by Wm. C. Ferril, Curator of the Colorado State Historical and Natural History Society. The specimen was mounted by the writer, in the routine work of the museum, and is now in the collection at the State Capital, Denver, Colo.

This, I believe, is the fourth capture of the species within Colorado, and the fact seems worthy of record.—HORACE G. SMITH, *Ass't. Curator, State Hist. and Nat. Hist. Soc., Denver, Colo.*